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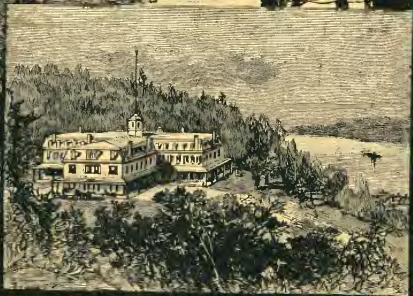














DESCRIPTIVE AND ILLUSTRATED

Guide to **WATKINS**

**CLEN**

AND ITS

Romantic  
Surroundings.

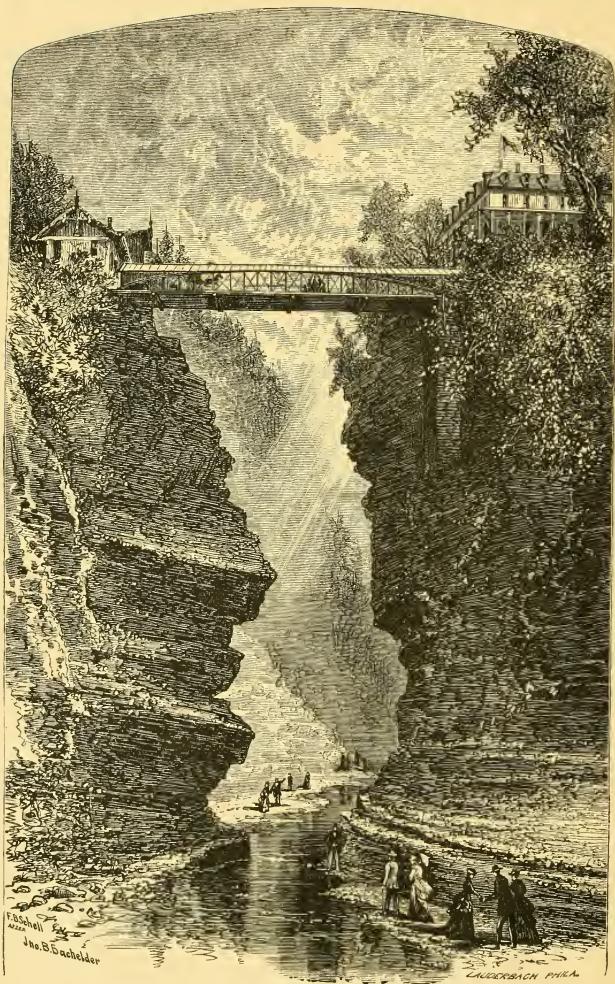
A. J. MICHENER,

PROPRIETOR.









WATKINS GLEN AND GLEN MOUNTAIN HOUSE.

# Descriptive Guide Book

OF THE

# WATKINS GLEN

Near Village of Watkins—Head of Seneca Lake,  
Schuyler County, N. Y.

AND ITS

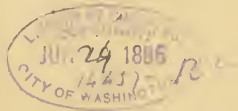
## Romantic Surroundings

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NINTH EDITION, CORRECTED AND REVISED

BY A. J. MICHENER

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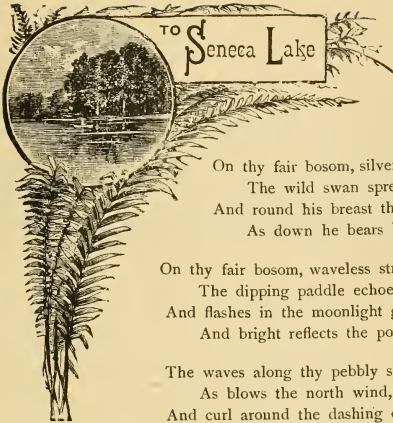


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A. J. MICHENER,

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Washington, D. C.

1887  
MAY



TO Seneca Lake

On thy fair bosom, silver lake,  
The wild swan spreads his snowy sail,  
And round his breast the ripples break  
As down he bears before the gale.

On thy fair bosom, waveless stream,  
The dipping paddle echoes far,  
And flashes in the moonlight gleam,  
And bright reflects the polar star.

The waves along thy pebbly shore,  
As blows the north wind, heave their foam,  
And curl around the dashing oar,  
As late the boatman hies him home.

How sweet, at set of sun, to view  
Thy golden mirror spreading wide,  
And see the mist of mantling blue  
Float round the distant mountain's side.

At midnight hour as shines the moon,  
A sheet of silver spreads below,  
And swift she cuts, at highest noon,  
Light clouds, like wreaths of purest snow.

On thy fair bosom, silver lake,  
Oh! I could ever sweep the oar,  
When early birds at morning wake,  
And evening tells us toil is o'er.

PERCIVAL.



## INTRODUCTION

**F**IRST in order, a short general description of the Glen and its surroundings may be interesting to the reader.

Watkins Glen, near the village of Watkins—named after its founder, DR. SAMUEL WATKINS, a native of England—was embraced through its entire length of more than three miles, in the “Watkins and Flint purchase.” This tract was obtained from the Indians, nearly a century ago, and covered a “large tract of country” around the head of Seneca Lake.

The idea of unsealing this mysterious “Book of Nature” and opening its successive pages to the eyes of the “outer world” was conceived in 1863, by one M. ELLS, a journalist and resident of Watkins, who deserves great credit for the measures he took to carry out his plan, by the construction of pathways and railings; building staircases, bridges, and a miniature *châlet* on the site of the present one (the Swiss Cottage), called the “Evergreen,” and by announcing through the press of the surrounding country that on and after the 4th day of July, 1863, Watkins Glen would be open as a summer resort for visitors, and a claimant for a share of the favors annually bestowed upon Niagara, Saratoga, the White Mountains, the Catskills, the Thousand Islands, &c., &c. The popular response far exceeded the most sanguine expectations. From 8,000 to 10,000 persons visited the Glen during the balance of that season; and the number has con-





## WATKINS GLEN

tinued to increase annually from that time to the present, from all sections of the United States and Canadas, including many from the Old World. This extraordinary popularity of the Glen was due, not alone to the beauty, magnificence and grandeur of its scenery; but to the generous courtesy of the newspaper and magazine press, which gave it a world-wide notoriety, in a brief time, that would have required many years to accomplish; and acknowledgments are due for their services in bringing before the world one of the many charming and romantic scenic wonders for which our favored country is becoming justly celebrated throughout the civilized world.

Watkins Glen has become so widely known, and the number of yearly visitors so great, the necessity of a descriptive Guide Book has been greatly felt, and the many inquiries for such a work led to the preparation of this.

The writer has endeavored to meet the wants of the visitor by giving a simple description of the scenery of this wonderful Glen without attempting to embellish as fully as its merits deserve—only making it a guide-book, pointing out the various objects of interest, in order that all may be seen, and the services of a “living guide” rendered unnecessary. The heights, distances, &c., have been given from the most reliable estimates; for, owing to the peculiar conformation of this locality, actual measurement is impracticable. They may not in all cases be exact, but are generally correct.

Many visitors are surprised and inconvenienced by not knowing the kind of dress that should be worn through the Glen. It is frequently necessary to use the hand in climbing the stairways, and consequently a long dress is inconvenient to manage. In many places the paths are quite narrow, bordered by ferns and mosses that collect moisture, for which long skirts are unsuited. The less there is to encumber the free use of the feet and arms, the better; long cloaks, shawls, parasols, &c., are inconvenient and superfluous, and should be left at the Manager's office by the Iron Suspension Bridge on the upward trip.

The dress should be of woolen material, for even in the mid-summer the Glen is cool. Waterproof suits for both ladies and gentlemen can be had at the Manager's office, by the Iron Suspension Bridge.



## WATKINS GLEN

It matters less about suitable dress for gentlemen. Any hat will do, but one that will not be injured by an occasional drop of water is the best. Silk hats are the only articles liable to suffer much from the trip.

In passing through the Glen, it is not well to wander from the regular path, as a desire to explore new localities, or obtain a view from some difficult point, might be attended with danger. And here, a word of caution. Visitors will observe placards at several places, warning them not to throw stones into the Glen. Many do this to hear the noise made by the stones, crashing down through the trees and over the rocks. The reasons why it should not be allowed are obvious. We would also like to say a word with regard to those who are ambitious to immortalize themselves by carving their names and dates of their visitation upon the face of the rocks, staircases, bridges, trees, &c., that it is "expressly forbidden."

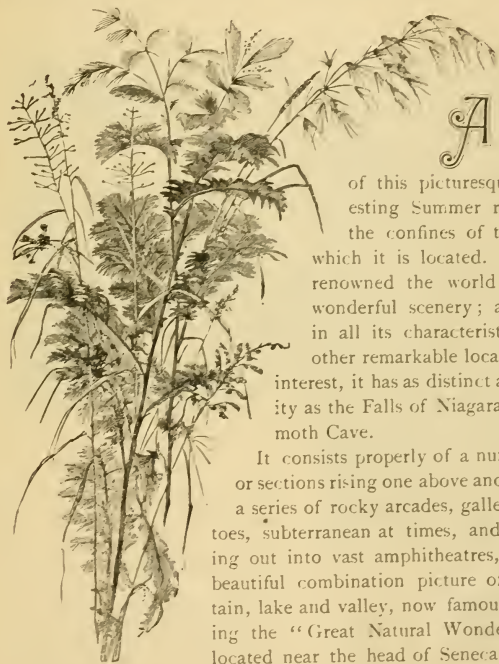
Pic-nic parties are respectfully requested not to strew paper, eggshells, and the remains of their repasts, in conspicuous places along the pathways in the Glen, or where they will mar the beauties of the scenery.

The best time for visiting the Glen is between the first of June and the first of November.

We would advise visitors going through the Glen to take advantage of all the seats and every convenient place for rest. The scenery fills them with wonder, and causes so much eagerness to press on to the end, the air is so invigorating, and the jaunt affords so much pleasure, that they are apt to entirely forget bodily fatigue, and experience upon coming out into the world again a kind of reaction that convinces them they are very much exhausted.



# Watkins Glen



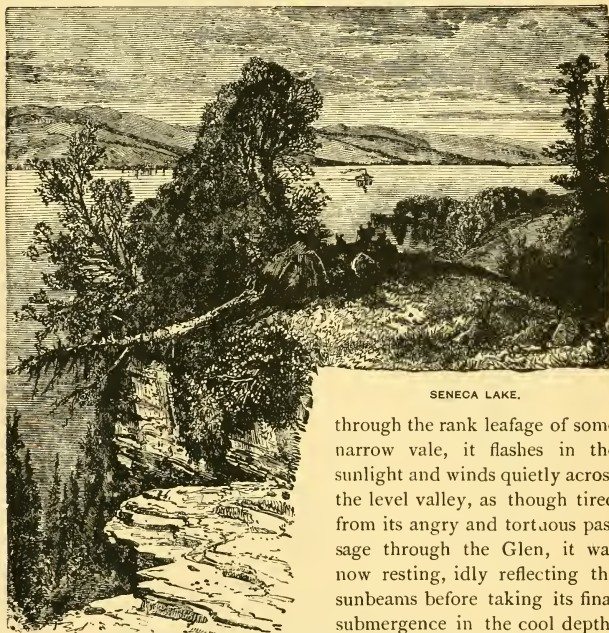
A FEW years ago but little was known of this picturesque and interesting Summer resort beyond the confines of the county in which it is located. To-day it is renowned the world over for its wonderful scenery; and, differing in all its characteristics from any other remarkable locality of natural interest, it has as distinct an individuality as the Falls of Niagara or the Mammoth Cave.

It consists properly of a number of glens or sections rising one above another, forming a series of rocky arcades, galleries and grottoes, subterranean at times, and again widening out into vast amphitheatres, presenting a beautiful combination picture of glen, mountain, lake and valley, now famous for containing the "Great Natural Wonder," which is located near the head of Seneca Lake, in the outskirts of the village of Watkins, in Schuyler Co., N. Y.

It comprises a superficial area of nearly five hundred acres; its general course is east and west; its tortuous length extends over three miles, and its total ascent to the summit of the mountain above is eight hundred feet.

## WATKINS GLEN

It forms the channel for a limpid stream which, bubbling out from mountain springs, threads its sinuous way through gorge and dell; now tumbling madly from lofty heights into the depths of a foam-crested whirlpool; now breaking in shimmering cascades above some pellucid pool shaded by moss-grown rocks, then, winding like a silver thread



SENECA LAKE.

through the rank leafage of some narrow vale, it flashes in the sunlight and winds quietly across the level valley, as though tired from its angry and tortuous passage through the Glen, it was now resting, idly reflecting the sunbeams before taking its final submergence in the cool depths of "Seneca Lake," half a mile beyond. Watkins is on the Northern Central R. R., which connects at Canandaigua with the New York Central; at Elmira, with the New York, Lake Erie & Western (old Erie), Lehigh Valley and Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroads;



# WATKINS GLEN

and at Harrisburg with the Pennsylvania Railroad ; while the Syracuse, Geneva & Corning R. R. crosses the Glen near its most westerly terminus. It is twenty miles from Elmira and forty from Geneva.

The latter is reached by a line of steamers, running from Geneva to Watkins, over Seneca Lake, touching at all points. This is a delightful way of reaching the Glen from the north, as the scenery of this beautiful lake is equal to anything on the continent. The steamboats of this line are large, elegantly fitted up, commanded by polite and efficient officers, and every attention is paid to the convenience and comfort of the passengers. It will be seen, therefore, that Watkins Glen is accessible from all directions.

The following detailed description of a tour of the Glen is here-with presented in such a manner that the visitor may find it a material guide in pointing out many things which might escape notice.

Passing up Franklin Street from the railroad station or steamboat landing, a few minutes' walk brings us to the entrance and, turning from the street, we enter the defile between the guarding hills, and the first object that attracts our attention as we commence our pilgrimage is a vast, rocky

## ENTRANCE AMPHITHEATRE,

the walls of which rise on either side nearly two hundred feet above our heads. Ahead of us the walls almost meet, and farther passage seems barred, with the exception of a narrow rift in the rocks, as if they had, by some mighty power, been torn asunder. Here stood an old building that served for both saw and grist mill, before the romantic genius of an "ELLS" had developed the many attractions hidden beyond.

Before proceeding, however, we pass beneath and around the base of the overhanging rocks, where we obtain a fine view of one of the wildest scenes of the Glen—called the

## ENTRANCE CASCADE,

which is a narrow thread of water, shooting out from an angle in the rocks eighty feet above, and dashing into a dark, cavernous pool of unknown depth below. At our feet slumbers the Trout Pool, broad,

# WATKINS GLEN

deep, clear and irregular in form, so named from the immense number of the finny tribe which come up from the lake during high water in the spring and early summer.



ENTRANCE STAIRCASE.

We now ascend a strong and secure staircase and find ourselves in what is called



# WATKINS GLEN

## GLEN ALPHA.

As we continue, we observe the channel makes a sharp turn to the left, which accounts for the apparent obstruction. At the head of the staircase is a little bridge spanning the chasm, known as

## SENTRY BRIDGE.

where we pause a few moments to rest, and take a look through the amphitheatre we have just left, and down through the jagged edges of rock to the deep blue basin, broken into circling ripples by the falling column of water, out across the smiling valley to the green hills beyond.

Here, for the first time, the delightful sensation produced by the invigorating and inspiring atmosphere, as it draws down through the Glen, steals over us. Its shadowy recesses are natural reservoirs of eternal coolness, and even in the severity of dog-days furnish a most grateful retreat from the heat of the outer world. The air is cool, fresh and bracing, laden with sweet odors, the fragrance of many flowers.

Looking upward from the point where we now stand, what a sight bursts upon us! Towering and irregular cliffs of dark rock, angular and sullen, rise one above another till they appear to meet in the clouds, and seem to forbid approach!

At numerous places in the Glen we pause, and wonder how it is possible to go much farther, as the way appears impassable, and the distance so inaccessible; but as we advance the path always opens, and gives far more interest to the ascent than though we could clearly mark our way before us.

Crossing Sentry Bridge, we ascend a short flight of steps on the south side, and before us lies a pathway cut in the solid rock, leading along under the overhanging cliffs, a few feet above the stream. We are now fairly in

## STILLWATER GORGE.

where the various hues and tints of the rock, the eccentric combination of curves and angles, seem as if nature had endeavored to see what wildly grotesque and yet beautiful images she could produce.

We now catch a glimpse of the second cascade, called

# WATKINS GLEN

## MINNEHaha

which is beautiful, irregular, and yet full of grace. The water, broken several times in its fall, is dashed into foam and spray which forms a brilliant contrast to the dark, rocky surroundings.

About one hundred feet beyond Minnehaha is the

### FAIRY CASCADE,

which, with one graceful bound, leaps into

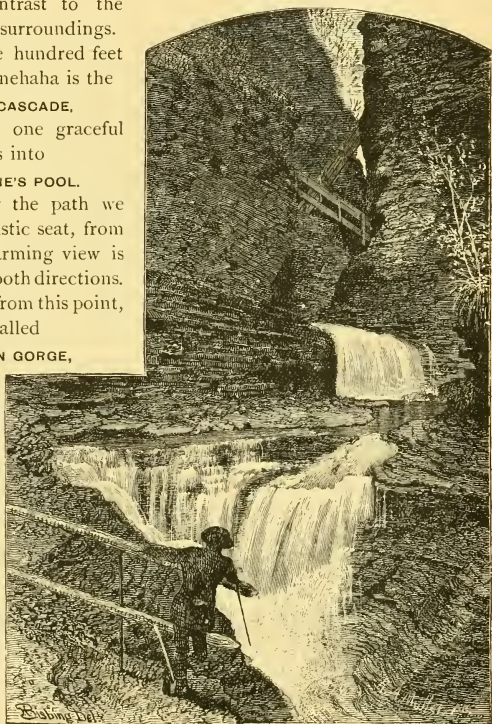
### NEPTUNE'S POOL.

Following the path we come to a rustic seat, from which a charming view is obtained in both directions. Looking up from this point, the view is called

### CAVERN GORGE,

and for wildness and grandeur is unsurpassed by any in the Glen.

And here it would be well to advise visitors not to press on too eagerly, but to proceed deliberately, and frequently look back, as in many cases the views we have passed are the finest.



MINNEHaha.



# WATKINS GLEN

Looking forward at the narrow gorge we are about entering, we see a staircase above us, and beyond that still another, almost perpendicular in its position, and of great height. This portion of the Glen is called

## THE LABYRINTH,

and the channel of the stream here is very narrow.

A little farther under the shelving cliffs of rock, and we are at the foot of the Long Staircase referred to, which leads to the top of the north cliff. Here we are in a strangely wild and interesting place. If we pass by a little way, before ascending the Staircase, we find ourselves in a cavern, almost circular in form, dark and damp, called the Grotto, directly behind the sheet of water. No one should fail to visit this weird chamber. Here the

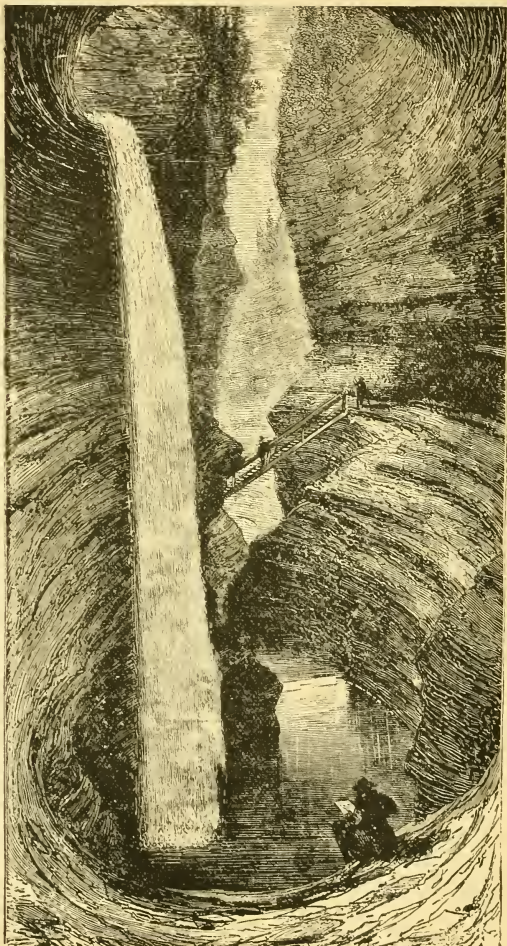
## CAVERN CASCADE

leaps from the rocks above, down sixty feet, in a single column, not altogether unlike the Entrance Cascade, but much grander. The rocky walls of the Grotto reverberate the echoes of the falling water until the sound is fairly deafening, and



CAVERN CASCADE.

the light of the "outer world" gleaming through the transparent stream in front of you, gives it the appearance of molten silver. Returning to the staircase, the downward view from the foot of which is called Whirlwind Gorge, we ascend nearly one hundred feet, and are glad to avail ourselves of the rustic seat at the top. The view had from the head of the staircase, is called



THE GROTTTO



# WATKINS GLEN

## THE VISTA,

and the effect is very fine. After emerging from the dark chasm, we see before us silvery cascades, quiet pools and moss-garnished walls, overarched by stately forest trees and thick shrubbery, with a broad light flooding the distance; and far above through the emerald foliage, like a web of gossamer, is seen the beautiful Iron Bridge spanning the Glen.

We are forcibly impressed with the beauty of the foliage, which appears all the brighter as we emerge from the dark recesses of the Glen. It is a singular fact, that nowhere upon the American Continent can such a range of vegetation be found within such narrow limits. On the northern slopes in sheltered nooks protected from the winds, and in a great measure from frost and snow, exposed to the warm rays of the sun, the vegetation is almost tropical. Especially among the lower orders, plants are here found that are indigenous to Tennessee and the Carolinas. The fern family is largely represented, and some of the most beautiful specimens are found. Many of the varieties attain a degree of luxuriance that astonishes the student familiar with them. Exposed to the keen north winds, high up on the southern cliffs, plants are found that belong far to the north. Stunted firs, mosses and lichens, that are rarely seen south of the Hudson's Bay country, are here represented. After a refreshing rest we again start upon our journey, and bearing gently to the left, by a "new" pathway, strong and elegant stairway broken by platforms, recently erected, along the verge of the gorge, where the wildness of the scenery is truly impressive, we find ourselves standing gazing into what was formerly known as

### "GLEN OBSCURA,"

but which, by the great improvements above referred to, is as accessible as any portion of the Glen. By a short flight of steps from this platform we come upon the veranda of the building known as the

### "SWISS COTTAGE,"

(only needing the stones upon the roof to make it an exact copy of the "Chalets" found among the mountains, lakes, and glens of Switzerland) erected upon the site originally occupied by the "Ever-



SWISS CHALET.



## WATKINS GLEN

green" before mentioned, and now forming a portion of the Glen Mountain House. It is perched on a sort of natural shelf, 100 feet above the level of the stream, and 200 feet above the level of Glen Alpha, overlooking The Vista, and nestling among the trees and shrubbery. When we reflect upon the labor attendant upon getting the timbers and lumber used in the construction of buildings, staircases and bridges to their present position—it being impossible to use horses for the purpose—and that thousands of feet of the pathways, and many of the stairs, are cut in the solid rock, and that hundreds of obstructions and threatening masses of stone had to be removed, we see that patience and indefatigable perseverance have surmounted all difficulties.

From the veranda of the Swiss Cottage is had a fine view of the main building known as the GLEN MOUNTAIN HOUSE, the only hotel connected with the Glen. It is very romantically located, well furnished and provided with all the modern comforts and conveniences found in any first-class hotel. All visitors to the Glen are welcome to inspect its spacious apartments, rest upon its delightfully cool piazzas, or indulge in any of the amusements provided on the grounds or in the "AMUSEMENT HALL." (See page 44.)

From the promenades on the verandas of the Swiss Cottage and the bridge across the Glen, we have several fine views of the gorge, the winding stream and the cascades above and below.

A few rods above the Mountain House Capt. Jas. Hope, late of 82, Fifth Avenue, New York, has erected an

### ART GALLERY,

which contains a superb collection of more than one hundred of his finest and most celebrated paintings. Here can be seen some of the leading beauties in Watkins Glen and its surroundings; also views in New England, Virginia, California, Europe, etc., etc., chief among which are his celebrated pictures of

### RAINBOW FALLS

in Watkins Glen, and his great historical painting of the

### ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Visitors can spend many a pleasant hour here, and no one should

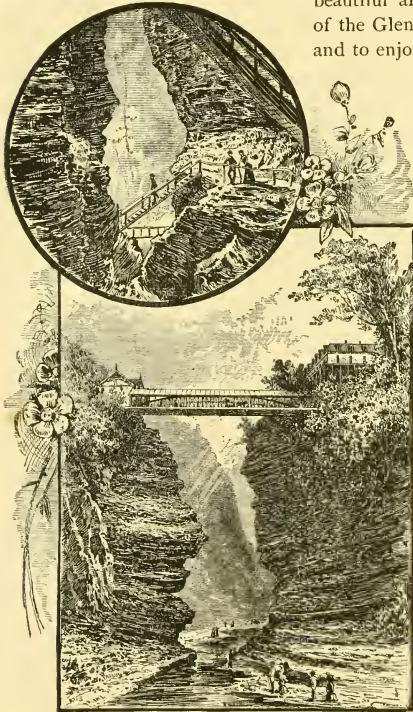
# WATKINS GLEN

fail to see this splendid collection. Our way now lies through the woods by a shaded path, and is called

## SYLVAN GORGE,

which was until recently inaccessible, and is one of the wildest, most beautiful and interesting portions of the Glen. There are two paths, and to enjoy it fully one should go

by one and return by the other. Continuing, we take the Sylvan Path, turning abruptly to the left above the Art Gallery, and follow the path winding down through the stately forest. We pause on Forest Cliff to enjoy the magnificent view down The Vista. From beneath the green sylvan arches we look down into the depths, with picturesque tree-clad cliffs on either hand. To the left, perched on a jutting crag, more than a hundred feet above the bed of the stream, we catch a glimpse of Hope's Art Gallery, and rustic arbor, mid their



emerald surroundings; while beyond the tasteful structures the iron



## WATKINS GLEN

bridge spans the chasm, and the view finally dies away in the shadows of Whirlwind Gorge. Turning, we pursue our course, pausing oft to admire the mossy slopes that crown the chasm, and to gaze down upon Diamond Fall and all the wild surroundings of forest, rock and stream.

Our walk through the woods gradually descends until we are nearly on a level with the stream; and here, in the rocks in all directions, are found the remains of the same kind of pools that are now seen in the bed of the stream. A word on the formation of these peculiar pools may not prove uninteresting to those who are not familiar with them. In the spring, when the stream is very high and the ice breaking up, large quantities of rock, boulders and gravel are carried down by the tremendous power of the water; and sometimes these boulders lodge in a natural seam in the rock, or in a curve in the bed of the stream, and are there whirled and rolled around, until, aided by the gravel that collects, they gradually grind out these basins or pools in the softer rock beneath. This process, going on for years, has worn some of them to an immense size and depth. In some instances the boulders have been forced from their resting-places at the bottom of the pool, and carried away; but in many instances, especially in the upper glens, they are still to be seen in the basins they have carved. The remains of these basins are, in many places, to be seen now, where the channel has deepened or changed and left them.

Proceeding on our journey we see a succession of little rapids and cascades leaping into Sylvan Gorge, of which this is the upper termination, called the

### SYLVAN RAPIDS,

and they glide and dance very beautifully through their irregular rocky channel. At the head of the Sylvan Rapids a rustic bridge spans the stream, from which as we cross to the south side, we have a delightful bird's-eye view down through Sylvan Gorge, with its many windings and mysterious recesses. Below the bridge is the "Bath Tub," which will be readily recognized by its perfect resemblance to that necessary article.

# WATKINS GLEN

Looking upward we find ourselves in

**GLEN CATHEDRAL,** and here obtain the best general view of this masterpiece of Nature's handiwork. All attempt at description fails, and words are inadequate to paint a picture that would do this subject justice, or convey to the mind an idea of its grandeur. The Cathedral is an immense oblong amphitheatre, nearly an eighth of a mile in length.



ENTRANCE TO CATHEDRAL.





# WATKINS GLEN

Here the Glen is wider than at any other point ; the rocky walls tower to a great height—over three hundred feet—and are richly tapestried with mosses and clinging vines, and crowned with lofty pines and other evergreen trees. The floor is composed of a smooth and even surface of rock ; the vaulted arch of the sky forms the dome. In the upper end the

## CENTRAL CASCADE

forms the Choir, and, as it dashes from rock to rock, sings continual hymns of praise to the Infinite Power that created this mighty temple. Alluding to the peculiar feelings inspired by this stupendous work of Nature, a friend who once visited it, said : “ I have often reflected upon the insignificance of man, but never so fully realized what a mere atom I was in this incomprehensible universe, as when standing in this vast Cathedral and looking up its towering walls.”

Recrossing the stream we continue along the north bank, in the shade of immensely tall forest trees ; pausing midway for another look at the amber waters that spread over the level floor, and at Pulpit Rock that rears its stately head above its fellows.

Situated near the upper end of the Cathedral is a large and beautiful pool, called the

## BAPTISMAL FONT.

This is one of the most remarkable of these natural basins, singular for its regularity and the surpassing beauty of its form, and we are astonished, more than ever before, by the wonderful clearness and purity of the water, which, as the sun strikes into it, sparkles until it is fairly radiant. The smallest objects on the bottom are clearly discernible in pools where the water is ten or fifteen feet deep, while its refracting and distorting powers are very great. We now ascend the

## GRAND STAIRCASE.

about one hundred and seventy feet in height. Passing along on the cliff a few rods, we come to a short flight of stairs leading down to the

## VERANDA,

descending which we obtain one of the finest views of the Central

## WATKINS GLEN

Cascade at our feet. This fall of about sixty feet, is very beautiful, angular and irregular, yet symmetrical; while far above, projecting through the trees, is seen Pulpit Rock. Re-ascending we find ourselves in the

### GLEN OF THE POOLS,

so named from the number of rock basins it contains. Pursuing the path on the north bank a short distance to a point directly over the Central Cascade, and looking back down through Glen Cathedral, we have the

### POET'S DREAM,

a truly magnificent scene.



THE CATHEDRAL.

We come now to another rustic bridge, below which



# WATKINS GLEN

is the Mermaid's Pool, and looking up we have what has been appropriately termed, the

## MATCHLESS SCENE,

which view seems to combine within itself all the manifold beauties of the Glen. Broken and angular in its formation, rock and water, cascades and deep pools, winding channels and seething rapids, foliage and sky, all combine in a chaotic intermingling, yet form a harmonious and picturesque whole. As we proceed we are never tired of admiring the extreme beauty of the water; and the sunlight shimmering down through the foliage strikes into the pools, waking their crystal depths into life; while new phases of magical beauty surprise us at every step, like the ever-varying changes in a kaleidoscope.

Leaving this point we follow the path on the south bank, through this section of the Glen, employing our time in examining the curious structure of the pools, one of which especially will be noticed, called the Horse Shoe.

We now come to a little staircase on the south bank, by which we ascend to a more elevated path; but before we do, we pass by it and a little further up the Glen, to obtain a fine view of the

## TRIPLE CASCADE AND RAINBOW FALLS.

The Triple Cascade is deemed by many to be the finest in the Glen. As its name indicates, it is composed of three portions, one above another, each different in form from the others, and forming a beautiful combination. Directly opposite the Triple Cascade on the south side, a little brook leaps over the brow of a great cliff nearly four hundred feet high down into the Glen, trickling over the irregular surface of the rock until it reaches a point thirty feet above the foot-path, where it falls over a projecting shelf, the edge of which is curved outward in a crescent form. The water does not descend in a smooth sheet, but in a myriad of tiny threads and drops, forming a sparkling crystal veil, behind which our course leads. This novel cascade is known as Rainbow Falls. Beyond and above the Triple Cascade, spanning a narrow pass in the gorge, we see the Platform Staircase, while far above our heads on the north bank, Castle Cliff is seen through the trees. This section of the Glen of the Pools is called the



RAINBOW FALL AND TRIPLE  
CASCADE.

Giant's Gorge. We re-  
turn to the little staircases  
before mentioned, and  
ascend to the elevated  
pathway, taking in new  
views of the Triple Cas-  
cade at every step, and  
come to the



# WATKINS GLEN

## RAINBOW FALL.

behind which we pass. The space between the fall and the cliff is narrow, but sufficiently wide to allow free passage. While standing behind the fall and looking out through the misty curtain, the novelty of the position and the peculiar brilliancy that the radiant drops of falling water impart to everything viewed through them, fill us with wonder, and is beautiful beyond description. In the afternoon, from June to September, when fair weather prevails, the rays of the sun fall into the gorge, and the enraptured visitor, in looking through the veil, beholds two most beautiful rainbows, a primary and secondary; a sight that, once enjoyed, can never be forgotten.

We take a backward glance at Glen of the Pools and Matchless Scene, pass the Triple Cascade, and under overhanging rocks come to a staircase leading to an inclined platform, called

## PLATFORM STAIRCASE.

Here are seats which we find very welcome after our climb, and where we obtain a fine retrospective view of the Glen of the Pools with its ragged gorges, and a more defined view of the Rainbow Fall, showing its course before taking its final leap, while below us lies Diana's Bath, a clear, circular pool, nearly twenty feet deep. We are now to pass through

## SHADOW GORGE.

in which portion of the Glen some of the most severe labor was performed, but its final accomplishment was a high compliment to the engineering skill of those who had it in charge. We leave the platform, ascend to and follow the path along the south cliff, where it is narrow and cut in the solid, rocky face of the cliff. It winds in and out, following the curves of the gorge, high above the water. We now see how appropriately this has been named the Shadow Gorge. The trees on the cliffs above are very high, and in many places almost meet overhead, and as the light strikes down through them their shadows are reproduced in the pools below, forming a combination of beautiful lights and shadows that surpass description. Here the stream seems a succession of basins connected by rapids and little falls, while ahead of us is another rustic bridge spanning the stream, and a little beyond it is the

WATKINS GLEN

EMERALD POOL,  
one of the most beautiful of the basins ; very regular in form, bottom



ARTIST'S DREAM.

covered with gravel, and water of great purity and brilliance. Look-



# WATKINS GLEN

ing up the Glen, our journey seems about to come to a sudden termination, shut off by a wall as regular as if composed of solid masonry, but as we cross the bridge and follow the pathway, we see on approaching that the Glen makes a sudden turn to the right, around this

## FROWNING CLIFF

that appeared to obstruct our further progress. At this place the seams in the rock intersect each other at right angles, giving to the whole the effect of masonry. The corner formed by this cliff on the south side, conveys the idea of the work of human hands, and is named the

## PILLAR OF BEAUTY.

Directly at the foot of this cliff is another large and very deep pool, the water in which is from twelve to fifteen feet deep, and as clear as crystal; and as it passes under the sharp angle of the cliff, it mirrors in its pellucid depths an inverted picture of the frowning rocks and graceful foliage above. The mosses and ferns are here very fine. These cliffs mark the entrance to the section called

## GLEN ARCADIA,

and it well deserves the name, for a more perfect Elysium cannot be imagined. The scene before us has been called

## THE ARTIST'S DREAM,

where all the beauties of the other Glens, silver cascades and crystal pools, light and shadow, sharp angles and graceful curves, foliage, sky and rock, mingle and produce a picture that more resembles an ecstatic dream than anything that can elsewhere be found. The rocks do not here tower to such immense height, nor is the scenery so sublime as in some of the sections of the glens through which we have passed, but what is lost in grandeur is more than atoned for in the wild beauty of the scene.

Our path now lies along the north cliff, on the rocky shelf some distance above the stream, where the water trickles from above, and runs down over the rocks in little streams. The gorge below us is known as the

# WATKINS GLEN

## NARROW PASS.

and is full of interest, as the walls tower high on either side, and approach near together. After rounding another sharp curve, we are once more obliged to cross the stream by means of a bridge, and proceed along the south side, through the Narrow Pass, under shelving rocks that extend far out over our heads. Passing around an angle, we come in sight of

PLUTO FALL,  
on which the rays of the



THE NARROW PASS.





# WATKINS GLEN

sun never shine. It appears like a subterranean gallery, for the air is damp and cold, and the dashing and rumbling of the Fall, as it echoes through the pass, adds to the gloomy sublimity of the spot. As we draw near we ascend a short staircase crossing over the fall where we obtain a fine view of it, which is of singular beauty, and essentially different in form from any we have yet seen, as it falls into a dark, deep basin, and extends about thirty feet under the rock on the edge of the stream. We climb around the falls, and stop to take a farewell look at the Narrow Pass, or, as it is called when viewed from this point backward, the Spiral Gorge.

Our course now lies along the north side to the head of Glen Arcadia, and the way is clear, though "wondrous crooked," before us. The rapids here are the most beautiful in all the Glen. The channel is tortuous, and, as in the Glen of the Pools, consists of a succession of curiously-carved basins connected by narrow rapids and cascades. The largest of these basins is called the

#### POOL OF THE NYMPHS.

Passing under the shelving rocks, we finally arrive at the head of the section, formed by the Arcadian Fall. This is a beautiful cascade, falling into a kind of natural grotto; and at its foot is a beautiful basin. Near the head of this section a staircase leads to the north cliff, and a few rods of pathway bring us to another rustic bridge, thrown across the chasm directly above or over Arcadian Fall, for the purpose of giving visitors a fine rear view of Glen Arcadia, which, viewed from this romantic spot, is called

#### ELFIN GORGE,

and is a scene of rare and enchanting beauty. This bridge is the dividing line between Glen Arcadia and

#### GLEN FACILITY.

the latter so called because of the comparative ease with which it may be explored, except in times of high water. The most important of the great natural beauties of the Glen terminate here, but many visitors go a short distance beyond, to see the magnificent new iron bridge of the Syracuse, Geneva & Corning Railway Co., which spans the Glen



PLUTO FALLS.



## WATKINS GLEN

at a height of 165 feet above the water, and well worth a visit. We have passed through two and a half miles ; are six hundred feet above our starting point, and being satisfied with an endless change and variety of scenery, enter

### GLEN HORICON,

half a mile above Elfin Gorge, and beyond the railroad bridge above mentioned, which consists of a large basin or amphitheatre, containing some twelve or fifteen acres with steep wooded banks, several hundred feet high, broken into curves and promontories, the lower level of which is a barren "pathway of the floods," and the whole a picture of commingled grandeur and solitude. Just beyond is a winding, rocky gorge, terminating in a vast area called

### GLEN ELYSIUM,

because of its natural beauties of water, lawn and grove, and its susceptibility of being made one of the most attractive and delightful pleasure grounds imaginable. It is nearly a half mile long, and one-fourth of a mile wide, containing within its lofty, sloping banks, nearly fifty acres, filled with cozy rural retreats, carpeted with grasses and mosses, overlooked by giant trees, and graced and adorned with a wondrous variety of foliage.

After leaving Glen Elysium, we come to Omega Falls—the last—and beyond this fall, which is one of the most complicated and beautiful in the series,

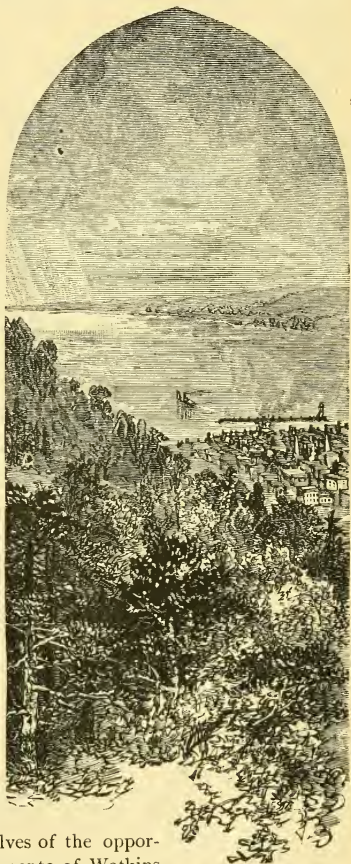
### GLEN OMEGA

stretches westward for half a mile or more, till it opens out in the "hill country" like a great fan ; and the Glen comes to an end more than three miles from its beginning at the entrance of Glen Alpha.

After a quiet rest, we start on our return, taking it leisurely, and stopping frequently to admire the numberless beauties that escaped us on our ascent. And, we may here say, that the Glen is so extensive, and the beauties so varied that one may make many visits, and yet each time find new features that he had not hitherto observed. Sometimes a difference of a few feet in a position will materially alter the outline of a picture. It is frequently the case that the visitor more

## WATKINS GLEN

fully realizes and appreciates the extent, sublimity and grandeur of the Glen, after he has twice accomplished its ascent. We stop a few minutes to look with wonder down into the grand old Cathedral, and after descending the staircase, passing through the Cathedral, and retracing the winding path through the woods, we finally find ourselves again at the Swiss Châlet. It is a most welcome spot, and its refreshments are very acceptable. Here can be obtained the best selection of Stereoscopic Views, of Watkins and Havana Glens, by eminent artists, which are faithful copies of the most striking points of interest, and enable the tourist, on returning home, to keep in vivid remembrance the many pleasant associations connected with his visit. Here visitors can find many little souvenirs to take with them to the eager, expecting ones at home, and they are advised to avail themselves of the opportunity of securing some memento of Watkins





# WATKINS GLEN

Glen. Crossing to the south side under cover of the Iron Suspension Bridge we come to the Glen Mountain House again.

We notice near the south end of the bridge, a sign-board on which we read

"TO THE SUMMIT."

Our wonder is excited, and not wishing to miss any of the beautiful surroundings of this wonderful place, thitherward we bend our steps; and by a winding and continually ascending path passing through a beautiful wood, we arrive at

### THE SUMMIT,

which well deserves the name, as it is the highest point in the vicinity, and commands a fine view of the lake and surrounding country for nearly thirty miles. Another path brings us back by a nearer route to the Glen Mountain House, when if not too wearied, we continue our enjoyable explorations, but not by the path we came; because another is recommended as promising fresh beauties.

Instead of returning by the Long Staircase, through the Glen, from the Swiss Cottage we take the path that bears to the left, along the slope of the hill, called Cliff Avenue, or one bearing to the north, directly behind the Swiss Cottage, called "To the Observatory." The former leads us through beautiful groves, and affords us occasional glimpses into the dizzy depths of Glen Alpha. The roar of the cascades, and the cool vapors arising from them, reach us even at this height.

The latter enables us to climb to the summit of

### TABLE MOUNTAIN,

as it is called, where we sit down to rest beneath the stunted evergreens that grow upon the brow of the mountain, at the little "Observatory Building," and gaze with mingled delight and amazement at the scene before us. For miles the valley lies spread out like a map at our feet, forming a *perfect* picture, and certainly one of the most magnificent and soul-entrancing scenes that we ever beheld, and which leaves a lasting impression on every beholder. Directly below us lies the village of Watkins, with its shaded avenues, its beautiful churches,



## WATKINS GLEN

public buildings, etc., while at the wharf lie several steamers and a variety of small craft, for Seneca Lake has quite an extensive and increasing commerce.

We regret very much to leave our elevated position and descend to the lower world, but after a refreshing rest from our delightful rambles, and reviewing the truly splendid panoramic scene below us, and gaining new strength from the pure breezes that sweep the lake, we return to our comfortable quarters at the Glen Mountain House, to rest, and write to our friends to come and do likewise.

There are a number of delightful drives in the neighborhood of Watkins Glen, also excursions upon the lake, that offer tempting inducements. One of the drives leads from Watkins Glen to Havana, and still further up the valley. It lies along the level plain on the west side of the valley, under precipitous hills and frowning cliffs on the one side, and the beautiful valley, with its border of hills, on the other. The road is hard and smooth, and margined with trees and shrubbery. At one point, near Havana, a little brook falls about one hundred feet over the edge of the cliff, called Aunt Sarah's Fall (after an old Indian woman who formerly lived there), making a very fine cascade. There is a little niche in the face of the rock, near the verge of the fall, in which, an ancient legend says, great treasures were hidden. This whole district, lying around the lake, was once the hunting-grounds of the Seneca Indians. In accordance with the manifest destiny of the race to which they belonged, they have all passed away, leaving naught behind them save their mouldering bones (many of which, with their rude implements of war, clubs, tomahawks, scalping-knives, beads, ancient French coins, Jesuitical crosses, little brass camp-kettles, arrow-heads, etc., are annually exhumed on both sides of the Glen Creek, a short distance east of the entrance to the amphitheatre), and their strange and poetic legends, preserved and handed down to the present. Almost every spot has some historical interest, and with very many of the localities are associated some of those wild imaginative tales of the wars, loves or wrongs of that race which is fast becoming extinct. These legends clothe their scenes with a deep interest.



## WATKINS GLEN

Continuing about one and a half miles beyond the pretty little village of Havana, eastward is Havana Glen, not so extensive as Watkins, but very interesting and well deserving a visit, as it possesses many curious and remarkable attractions. Another equally beautiful and interesting drive, across by the head of Seneca Lake and its eastern shore, is to Hector Falls, where a fine body of water is precipitated by foaming torrents, cascades, and rapids from a height of nearly four hundred feet into the valley, whence it rushes off to rest in the mighty depths of the lake.

Omnibusses, and easy-riding carriages, with careful and intelligent drivers, can always be obtained at the Glen Mountain House, at rates so reasonable as to induce all who have the time to avail themselves of the opportunity to see it.

And we would respectfully, but urgently, recommend a trip over Seneca Lake, from Watkins to Geneva and return, in one of the S. L. S. Navigation Co.'s palatial steamers. Six trips over the lake daily (three times each way), enables parties to leave morning, noon, and evening. The officers are very polite, spare no pains to interest their passengers, make them comfortable, and render their voyage pleasant.

The scenery along the shores of this beautiful body of water vies with any found in this country. To the north, the lake stretches away as far as the eye can reach, with the sky and clouds mirrored upon its bright blue surface; the hills sweep back from the lake in graceful undulations, the picturesque little hamlets and villages clinging to their sides, and nestling in the valleys; while back from the water still further, miles of well-tilled farms meet the view; and on the rising slopes many flourishing vineyards appear, from the product of which large quantities of excellent wine, in great variety, is manufactured and sold annually.



**E**N ROUTE the professor lectured on the botany of the Glen, declaring that, except in an artificial conservatory, he had never seen so great a variety in one locality. Many of the plants found here are exotic in this region outside; and the growth embraces a climatic range from Labrador to the Carolinas.

“But as we crossed a narrow foot-bridge, all eyes were lifted upward, while the handfuls of innocent fresh-gathered flowers were cast carelessly into the rushing current of forgetfulness. We stood at the entrance of the Cathedral; and from the consideration of micro-cosmic infinity, our minds were suddenly turned to a scene of infinite grandeur.

“This is, by common consent, the most striking view in the Glen; and it is certainly very impressive and emotional, with its towering cliffs, its broad flag stone flooring, its transparent, glassy pools, reflecting the blue heavens and the overhanging sunlit trees; its flashing water-fall, like a high altar, adorning its upper extremity; its shelving strata, supported by gigantic caryatides, weird mimicry of the sculptor’s art.

“But why waste words? The artist has already pointed his crayons, selected his point of view, and assumed the task of description.

“He says the view is grand, open, charming; but not so astounding and impressive nor so picturesque as some others. But this is not





## WATKINS GLEN

the age for new dogmas, even in matters of taste; and we magnanimously invite each visitor to see for himself, and enjoy his own opinions.

“This picture finished, we move on, crossing more streams and climbing more stairways. From this bridge, just at the head of the Cathedral Fall, we may pause and look back and have one of the most characteristic views of water-carved rocks and boiling waters in the Glen.

“The main stream descends in a perspective of sparkling cascades, uniting a succession of circular pools in deep stone basins or wells, grooved and polished like finely-wrought marble. On either side the cliffs rise to a towering height, showing rock entablatures, with architrave, frieze, and cornice, as clean cut and well proportioned as those of a Grecian temple. Over these come pouring adventurous streamlets from the upper world, like a shower of light aqueous meteors darting downward into the gloom.

“At every turn there is material for a wonderful picture, and when our time is limited it is difficult to make a selection. Still forward, as we wind around a shelving path that gives a dry passage under the water-fall on the left. Beyond there is still a mile or more to be explored, full of curious and pretty things; but we have climbed so many ladders, steps, and stairways, that we must be approaching the level of the upper world; indeed, the diminished height of the cliffs indicates this sufficiently.”—*Extract from Porte Crayon's Illustrated Article in Harper's Monthly for June, 1871.*

“I am not going to attempt a minute description of this really wonderful natural curiosity, suddenly become so famous. Scores of tourists are doing it. Porte Crayon has made it his own. And, after all, it is indescribable, ‘unpaintable.’ The word ‘Glen’ gives but a faint idea of the gorge. It is a marvelous rift in the mountain, which it seems must have been made by some stupendous earthquake-shock. The Glen, with its dashing, flashing, cascading stream, reminds me of several famous gorges and water-falls. It suggests Vacluse in the pellucid clearness and sparkle of the water. But, instead of the dreary,



## WATKINS GLEN

blasted heights above 'Petrarch's Fountain,' we have variegated, mossy, ferny rocks, the most lush and lovely foliage and wild flowers in profusion. It faintly suggests the somber, magnificent Pass of the Finstermunz, in the Tyrol, but is infinitely brighter and more varied. It suggests Trenton Falls, but is wilder and deeper. Most of all it suggests Bash-bish, in old Berkshire—it is indeed very like it, but is yet more picturesque and perilous. It is not properly a glen, but a prodigious succession, a full assortment and variety of glens. If one does not satisfy you, another must; though you be the most rapacious devourer of the sublime and beautiful, 'here's richness' for you. Through the boldest Yankee enterprise, these wild grandeurs and beauties, for centuries barred and buried from the world, have been thrown open to our gaze, and it is no wonder that the tides of travel are setting toward it from all directions, that hundreds daily climb its dizzy stairways, pick their way along its narrow ledges, dodge under its little side cascades, watch for rainbows beside its water-falls, gaze down into its profound, mysterious pools, and speculate on its wonderful formation. We go leagues out of the way, in foreign travel, to see things far less worth seeing, like Tivoli and Velino, Lodore, Glencoe, the Killarney cascades, the Vale of Avoca, the Dargle, and the Devil's Glen of Wicklow. The 'Pools' are a great curiosity in themselves. They are smooth, round, regular excavations, gigantic bowls, and are always brimming with crystal clear water. So near to these pools does the narrow path lead in some places, that a single false step would inevitably cost you a cold plunge.

"The Glen is one of Nature's reservoirs of eternal coolness. In its shadowy recesses, beside its emerald waters, you forget even the fierce heats of July and August, hundreds of feet above you.

"But, I am told it is seen in its utmost beauty in October, when the wild gorge with its wonderful variety of delicate foliage is brimmed with the most gorgeous colors, depth on depth of splendor."—*Extract from Grace Greenwood's Article in the New York Tribune, 1870.*

"At every bend within its rock-bound walls, new and varied scenery greets the eye, each view unsurpassed of its kind, yet no two



## WATKINS GLEN

alike. Cascade after cascade, set like gems amid the gray old rocks, are continually telling you welcome, if your imagination can interpret the language of 'laughing waters.'

"Far above these cascades and rapids, the rock walls tower to the height of from one to three hundred feet, while in many places the branches of the trees above them intermingle across the chasm, through which the autumn sunlight finds its way, filling the rock-bound passages with fantastic shadows."—*Elmira Advertiser*.

"Watkins has a rare natural attraction in the wooded glen of a stream, which here falls some four hundred feet in less than a mile (and nearly double that number in two) from the higher level on the west, to the valley of the lake. This fall is made by a succession of leaps or cascades, into pools or basins of varying depth and magnitude, separated by stretches of swift bright water, and overhung by the dark overgreens which mainly compose the all-embracing forest, which the sun irradiates but few hours per day. We judge this to be the finest succession of cataracts in our State. The cool seclusion of the Glen, with the marvels and beauties it reveals, will be long enshrined in the heart of the visitor."—*N. Y. Tribune*.

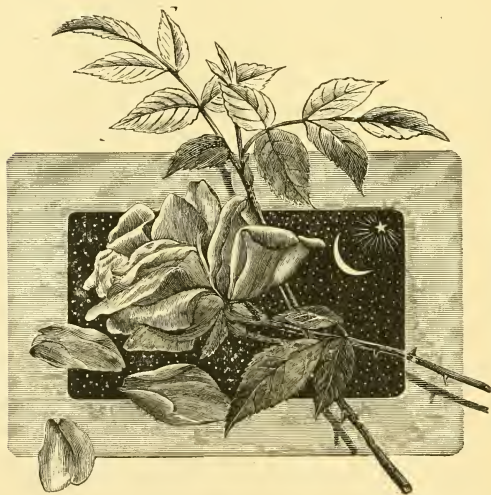
"Its succession of high bluff walls, with its 'towering cliffs, and beetling crags,' its clear and crystalline pools, varying in depth, size and form, its many silvery cascades and narrow channels through the solid rock, its labyrinthine passages, shadowy grottoes and miniature caves, its woody margins, and ever-changing floral charms, have given us one of the most varied, wild, weird, and delightful sights of our lives. We advise all lovers of the beautiful and romantic in natural scenery, to visit Watkins Glen, believing that they will derive the same pleasure from an acquaintance with its wonderful scenic attractions that we have this day enjoyed."—*Watkins Democrat*.

"The Glen Mountain House is about three hundred feet in altitude above the entrance to the Glen, and about one-quarter of the way up to the highest point, and the view of the scenery from this

## WATKINS GLEN

house is most magnificent and grand. To appreciate the Glen, one must see and pass through all its windings, climb its crags, and go from rock to rock ; otherwise description seems commonplace and tame.

“This remarkable wonder of nature has now become so widely known, and so highly appreciated, that it confessedly ranks among the first-class attractions of the country. The number of people visiting it during this season is literally immense. They come from all parts of the nation, though the States most largely represented are New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Among the names on the register may be found almost daily those of men of well-known prominence in the country.”—*Elmira Advertiser*.





## WATKINS GLEN

THE pure air of this mountainous region has proved so conducive to health, and especially for *nervousness* and *sleeplessness* is this delicious tonic accompanied by the lullaby of the waterfalls in the "GLEN" such a healthful soporific, that an enchanting "haven of rest" called the "GLEN MOUNTAIN HOUSE" (erected in 1872 at an elevation of 300 feet above the village), has been greatly enlarged, and its capacity so increased that 300 GUESTS can be comfortably accommodated within its walls. (See next page.) It is lighted throughout with gas, possesses all the modern conveniences found in any FIRST-CLASS summer hotel, and is the ONLY HOTEL connected with, or in the immediate vicinity of WATKINS GLEN.

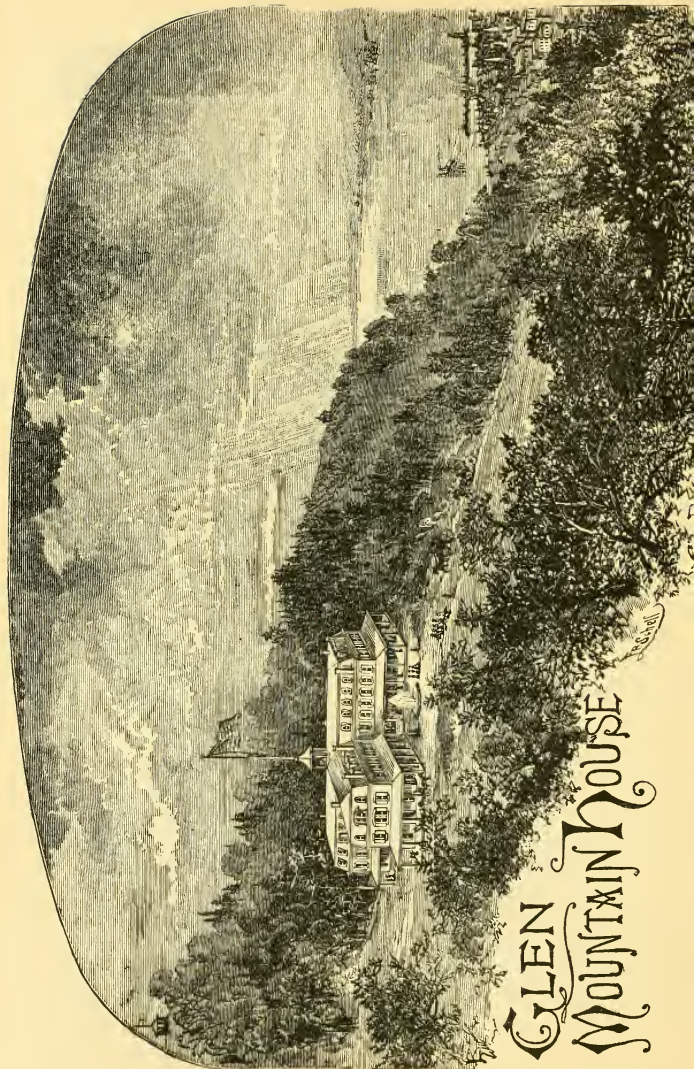
Great attention has been paid to sanitary regulations; the drainage is excellent; an abundance of pure spring water for all purposes; and everything in and about the house and grounds, is kept scrupulously clean and neat.

A pleasing and satisfactory feature connected with the romantic location of this HOTEL is, the novelty of situation of the DINING-ROOM, which is in a SWISS CHALET (such as is found among the mountains, lakes and glens of Switzerland) across the GLEN from the hotel, whereby all unpleasant odors arising from cooking, noise and confusion occasioned by servants, and heat from ranges and ovens, are wholly avoided, rendering the GLEN MOUNTAIN HOUSE one of the most delightfully cool and pleasantly situated summer hotels in the United States.

To protect guests from sun and storm, there is a beautiful and substantial (covered) iron bridge connecting the buildings.

Among other important improvements, is a building apart from the hotel known as AMUSEMENT HALL where music, dancing, and all rational amusements can be enjoyed, while those who desire rest and quiet are not disturbed.

SEASON TICKETS, which include admission to WATKINS GLEN, DINING-ROOM, and HOPE'S ART GALLERY, are furnished to ALL WHO HAVE ROOMS at the GLEN MOUNTAIN HOUSE, at a cost of "SINGLE ADMISSION," which enables them to VISIT the "GLEN," either upper or lower, AT PLEASURE, without the fatigue occasioned by the necessity



GLEN  
MOUNTAIN HOUSE

W. S. Hall

# WATKINS GLEN

of doing the whole of it one time, or going over the same ground twice.

This "SPECIAL PRIVILEGE" is only enjoyed by those above-mentioned; visitors registered elsewhere are charged FIFTY CENTS FOR EACH ADMISSION.

Omnibusses and easy-riding carriages are always in waiting to convey passengers to the GLEN MOUNTAIN HOUSE.

Special rates made for parties; beautifully illustrated circulars, and further information, furnished upon application to the Proprietor.





















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